Title: The Speaker made references to the passing away of Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, a member of the 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabhas and Smt. Prabhu Rau, a member of the 13th Lok Sabhas. She also made reference to the death of two persons and injury to over a dozen others in an accident in which a large number of houses of dalits were set ablaze by some anti-social elements in Mirchpur Village of Hisar district of Haryana on 21st April, 2010.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan and Shrimati Prabha Rau.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was a Member of the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabhas from 1998 to 2009, representing the Chirayinkil Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.

Earlier, Shri Radhakrishnan was a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1980 to 1996 for four terms. During this period, Shri Radhakrishnan adorned the office of Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1991. He served as the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, Kerala Legislative Assembly from 1987 to 1989.

An active parliamentarian, Shri Radhakrishnan was a Member of the Committee on Finance; Committee on Subordinate Legislation and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Commerce during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Finance; Committee of Privileges and the Consultative Committees, Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Ocean Development during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Shri Radhakrishnan was a Member of the Committee on Labour; Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice and the Committee of Privileges during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha. He also ably served as a Member of the Panel of Chairmen during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabhas.

Shri Radhakrishnan strove for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society. He fought against untouchability and other social evils in Kerala and participated in various movements against social exploitation.

Shri Radhakrishnan was actively associated with legal activities for over four decades. He served as the President of the All India Lawyers' Union (AILU), Kerala State during 1994 and the Kerala State Lawyers' Union for a period spanning over two decades. He also served as the Vice-President of the Kerala Kisan Sabha and the National Council of AILU, Delhi.

Shri Radhakrishnan also authored a book on Parliamentary Practice.

A widely traveled person, Shri Radhakrishnan was a Member of the Indian Parliamentary delegations that attended the Conferences of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held in Malaysia and Australia in 1987, Barbados in 1989 and Zimbabwe in 1990.

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan passed away on 26 April, 2010 at Thiruvananthapuram at the age of 83.

Shrimati Prabha Rau was a Member of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha from 1999 to 2004 representing the Wardha Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Earlier, Shrimati Rau was a Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1989 and then from 1995 to 1999. During this period, Shrimati Rau served as Minister of State for Planning, Industry and Education from 1972 to 1976; Cabinet Minister, Education, Sports and Youth Affairs from 1976 to 1977; Cabinet Minister, Co-operation and Tourism during 1978; and again as Cabinet Minister, Revenue, Cultural Affairs from 1988 to 1990 in the Government of Maharashtra.

Shrimati Rau was a Member of the Committee on External Affairs and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Power during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Shrimati Rau had been adorning the Office of the Governor of Rajasthan since 25th January, 2010.

An active social and political worker, Shrimati Rau took special interest in the cooperative movement in Maharashtra and worked for the welfare of farmers. She was a Member of the Co-operative Council, Delhi. She also served as the Chairperson, Maharashtra Commission for Women and the Maharashtra Rifle Association.

Shrimti Prabha Rau passed away on 26 April, 2010 at Delhi at the age of 74.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, as you are also aware on 21st April, 2010, two persons were burnt to death and over a dozen others injured when a large number of houses of Dalits were set ablaze by some anti-social elements in Mirchpur village of Hisar district of Haryana.

The House strongly condemns this incident of atrocity on Dalits. The House expresses its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and wishes speedy recovery to the injured.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.06 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.